



God Is With Us – Israelites Wander in the Desert

Deuteronomy 2:1-7 & 31

God Statement: God is Our Leader

KEY VERSE: “Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go..”
(Joshua 1:9, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Our Leader

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is our Leader.

SAY:

We’re starting a new series today, which means we have a new God Statement. This series, we are going to look at how “God is Our Leader,” as we look at specific traits of God’s leadership. Who are leaders? (Teachers, parents, older siblings, etc.) What makes

those people good leaders? God is a good leader. Actually He is the very best leader of all because He loves us SO much

Today, we're going to keep looking at the Old Testament when God led Moses & the Israelites through the desert. But before we do that, let's play a game.

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Follow Moses (Follow the Leader)

Supplies: Bible costume headpiece

Say: *God is our leader. He guides us and protects us! Have you ever played Follow the Leader? In our Bible lesson today, we will see how God led Moses, and then Moses led the Israelites. We're going to pretend to follow Moses in our game.*

Directions: Pick a child to be the "leader". Have the child wear the costume headpiece and pretend to be Moses. Children can take turns being Moses and leading the Israelites (playing follow the leader).

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Books of the Bible Song

The current Bible Challenge is for Woodmen Kids to learn the Books of the Bible Song! Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a "Bible Challenge" card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

As kids begin to learn the song, invite kids up to come show what they know during Large Group.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide. Invite the worship leader up to lead the group in worship.******

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides.****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. Do not lose hope. I am the Lord your God."
(Joshua 1:9b, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to "spy" on the What's It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What's It in the host's ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What's It: BIBLE

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What's It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What's It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

I wonder what this is. Does anyone know what this is? Oh, a **bible**, that's right! The Bible is a very special part in the Big God Story. I wonder why it's in our Wardrobe today. I bet we will find out soon. Do you know what time it is? It's time for us to dive into God's Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. ****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is Our Leader – Israelites Wander in the Desert

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: flashlight(s)

God was leading His people to a new land. They didn't listen to Him very well, so it took a long time to get to that new land. He kept leading them. For forty years! 40! Maybe your mom or dad is 40. That's their whole lifetime! It's like more than 4 times your lifetime! Every day the people followed God. God led them by the light of the fire at night and a cloud by day. The whole time they were wandering in the desert, God was with them. He didn't just leave them to find their way on their own, He led them because God is our leader!

Did you know that God is with us too? He's even with us right now. Just like the Israelites followed God's light, God wants us to follow His light today, too. What are some ways we can follow His light? ***Pause for responses first.***

Those are all great ideas - Reading the Bible, listening to Him, listening to people who love God, coming to church, praying, asking for His guidance are all ways we can follow His light.

What are some things we need God's help with? ***Pause for responses first.***

Being kind, memorizing His words, loving well, staying at dad's house when I want to be with mom or staying at mom's when I want to be with dad, stop watching something I shouldn't be watching, obeying my parents and leaders, defending a kid who other kids are being mean to. These are all things we need God's help with.

God is our leader and He is with us. When things are hard, when they are good, when they are scary, and all the in between, God is with us! He is with us right now, too.

We are going to turn down the lights and use these flashlights to follow the path to remind us to follow God's way.

Turn down/off the classroom lights and have all the kids stand up and follow you as you guide them around using a flashlight.

Look at the light coming from this flashlight. Look at how it shines through the darkness around it. This flashlight is like God's light shining through the darkness reminding us that God is with us and He leads us. All we have to do is follow Him.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you always remember to follow God. He is our leader, and we can trust and listen to Him because He loves us so much.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers *(10 minutes)*

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they’ve just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

- 1. Briefly retell the Bible story (Deuteronomy 2:1-7, 31).**
- 2. How did God take care of the Israelites when they were traveling through the wilderness?** (He protected them and gave them everything they needed).
- 3. Who was leading the Israelites during this time?** (Moses).
- 4. Did the Israelites listen to Moses, well, when he lead them through the wilderness?**
- 5. Who was going to lead the Israelites after Moses died?** (Joshua).
- 6. Who is the true leader over the Israelites, Moses, and Joshua?** (God).

7. What did God give Moses to give to the Israelites? (the book of the Law).
8. How do you think Joshua felt when he found out he was going to lead the Israelites?
How would you feel being given this huge job?

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – God Is With Me Necklace

Supplies: circle charm (God Is With Me), string, beads, straw pieces

Say: *Wow! It is so wonderful to know that God is always with us! Let's make a necklace that we can wear to remember this promise!*

Directions: Pass out a circle to each child and a string. Give children beads and straw pieces to put on their necklace. Help the children tie their necklaces at the end.

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and to



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